(iii) Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs), established to provide various services, such as skill upgradation and testing facilities to powerloom weavers have been upgraded with modern looms; other machinery and equipment to improve the quality of services and facilitation for modernisation.

(iv) Computer Aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centers have been established to provide value addition through design inputs into powerloom production.

(v) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports.

(vi) Under the 'Powerloom package[1] announce in Union Budget 2003-04, a Group Insurance Scheme is being implemented to provide cover to the powerloom workers against unforeseen death, accident and disability; and a 'Group Workshed Scheme' has been approved to create a better working environment and obtain higher productivity.

NTC Mills

†404. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NTC mills in functional condition in the country;

(b) whether all the mills are running in profit;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to equip these mills with modern technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Out of 119 mills of NTC, 72 mills are in functioning at present.

(b) to (d) None of these mills are running in profit. These losses are mainly on account of shortage of working captial, high cost of production, excess manpower etc.

(e) Modernisation of 53 viable mills is proposed in the rehabilitation schemes approved by BIFR, with the resources generated through sale of surplus land and assets. The sale of surplus assets is currently underway.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.